Amendments to the Claims:

Following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the application, as amended:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method in a network of switches for handling errors, the method comprising:

receiving at a switch a transaction request from an initiator communications device;

transmitting the transaction request through the network to a responding communications device;

receiving at a switch a transaction response from the responding communications device;

transmitting the transaction response through the network to the initiator communications device; and

upon detecting at a switch an error during the transmission of the transaction response, terminating the transmission and transmitting an error message to the initiator communications device from the switch that detected the error rather than notifying the responding communications device that sent the transmission to the switch.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the initiator communications device is responsible for handling the error.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the handling includes re-transmitting the transaction request.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the initiator communications device forwards an indication of the error message to an upper layer for handling.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the upper layer is an application layer.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 including:

upon detecting an error during the transmission of the transaction request, terminating the transmission and transmitting an error message to the initiator communications device.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the switches, initiator communications device, and the responding communications device are part of a storage area network.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the responding communications device is a data store device.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including wherein a switch, upon receiving the error message, preempts transmission of a data packet to transmit the error message.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method in a switch for handling errors in transmissions between a first communications device and a second communications device, the method comprising:

detecting at the switch an error that occurs during transmission of data transmitted by the second communications device and initiated by the first communications device;

identifying at the switch a the first communications device that initiated the transmission of the data; and

transmitting an error message from the switch to the first identified communications device so that the first identified communications device can handle the error,

wherein the a the second communications device that transmitted the data to the switch is not notified of the error.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the identifying includes retrieving an address for the first communications device that initiated the transmission.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 including receiving an error message addressed to an initiatorthe first communications device and transmitting the error message to the initiator first communications device.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the switch is part of a storage area network.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the switch does not have logic for handling error messages.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the error is detected during transmission of a request transmitted from the identified first communications device to a responding the second communications device.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the error is detected during transmission of a response transmitted from a responding the second communications device to the identified first communications device.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the identified first communications device handles the error.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the identified first communications device initiates the transmission of data by transmitting a request to a responding the second communications device.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein upon receiving the error message, the ~~identified~~ first communications device re-initiates the transmission of data by re-transmitting the request to the ~~responding~~ second communications device.

21.   (Previously Presented) A communications device comprising:

a detection component that detects an error during transmission of data from a transmitting communications device;

an identification component that identifies a communications device that initiated the transmission of the data; and

a transmission component that transmits an error message to the identified communications device rather than reporting the error to the transmitting communications device.

22.   (Original) The communications device of claim 21 wherein identification component identifies the communications device by retrieving an address for the communications device that initiated the transmission.

23.   (Original) The communications device of claim 21 wherein the communications device is a switch.

24.   (Original) The communications device of claim 21 including

a receiving component that receives an error message addressed to an initiator communications device and transmits the error message to initiator communications device without handling the error message.

25.   (Original) The communications device of claim 21 wherein the communications device is part of a storage area network.

26.   (Original) The communications device of claim 21 wherein the communications node is a data store device.

27.   (Original) The communications device of claim 21 wherein the communications device does not have logic for handling errors.

28.   (Original) The communications device of claim 21 wherein the error is detected during transmission of a request transmitted from the identified communications device to a responding communications device.

29.   (Original) The communications device of claim 21 wherein the error is detected during transmission of a response transmitted from a responding communications device to the identified communications device.

30.   (Currently Amended) A switch comprising:

means for detecting an error that occurs during transmission of data;

means for identifying a first communications device that initiated the transmission of the data; and

means for transmitting an error message to the identified first communications device so that the identified first communications device can handle the error rather than transmitting an error message to the a second communications device that transmitted the data to the switch.

31.   (Currently Amended) The switch of claim 30 including wherein the means for identifying includes means for retrieving an address for the first communications device that initiated the transmission.

32.   (Cancelled)

33.   (Currently Amended) The switch of claim 30 including:

means for receiving an error message addressed to an initiator the first communications device and transmitting the error message to initiator the first communications device.